GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1126
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
ALLEGED MISBEHAVIOUR WITH INDIANS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a Mumbai bound flight was forced to land at Amsterdam on 23rd of August, 2006 and its passengers were interrogated;

(b) If so, whether the officials in Amsterdam had also allegedly misbehaved with the passengers;

(c) If so, whether India had registered its protest with Holland in this regard; and

(d) If so, the reaction of Holland in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)to(d) : A Northwest Airlines flight NW 0042, bound for Mumbai from Amsterdam was turned back to Amsterdam on request made by the pilot/US sky marshals on board the flight. The flight was escorted back to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam by Dutch Air Force aircraft on August 23, 2006. 12 Indian passengers on the flight were detained by the Dutch authorities for investigation.

The Dutch Ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and a strong protest was registered at the handling of the unfortunate incident, especially the treatment meted out to the detainees.

The Dutch authorities expressed understanding for the concerns expressed by the Indian Government but drew attention to the apparently suspicious behaviour of the 12 Indian passengers, which appeared to require urgent preventive action. They conveyed that as soon as the investigations were completed within one-and-a-half days, the passengers were not only released from detention, but the Dutch authorities facilitated their earlier possible return to India.

The Indian Mission in The Hague worked closely with the Dutch authorities not only to obtain their early release but also to ensure their safe flight back to Mumbai.